

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A fixture mounting structure, comprising:
a base mountable securely to a support;
a cover attachable to the base;
a magnetic device to mount support the cover to from the base to hold the cover and base together; and
a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, wherein the selectively operable mechanical retainer is cooperatively related to the base and cover to hold together the base and cover in an event that the magnetic device intentionally or unintentionally releases, and the selectively operable mechanical retainer comprises a clip and a retention member, said clip being mounted to the cover and said retention member being mounted to the base, wherein the clip is housed within a clip holder, said clip being retractable within the clip holder by the application of a retracting tool.

7. (Previously Presented) A fixture mounting structure, comprising:
a base mountable securely to a support;
a cover attachable to the base;
a magnetic device to hold the cover and base together; and
a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, wherein the selectively operable mechanical retainer is cooperatively related to the base and cover to hold together the base and cover in an event that the magnetic device intentionally or unintentionally releases, and the selectively operable mechanical retainer comprises a clip and a retention member, said clip being mounted to the cover and said retention member being mounted to the base, wherein the clip is housed within a clip holder, said clip being retractable within the clip holder by the application of a retracting tool,
wherein the retention member is a retaining ring.

8. (Previously Presented) The fixture mounting structure of claim 7, wherein the retaining ring is grooved along it's the retaining ring's outer edge.

9. (Original) The fixture mounting structure of claim 8, further comprising a battery operated light fixture.

10. (Original) The fixture mounting structure of claim 8, further comprising a smoke detector.

11. (Currently Amended) A fixture mounting structure, comprising:
a base mountable securely to a support;
a cover attachable to the base;
a magnetic device to mount support the cover to from the base to hold the cover and base together; and
a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, wherein the selectively operable mechanical retainer comprises a clip and a retention member, said clip being mounted to the cover and said retention member being mounted to the base.

12. (Previously Presented) The fixture mounting structure of claim 11, wherein the clip is housed within a clip holder, said clip being retractable within the clip holder by an application of a retracting tool.

13. (Currently Amended) A fixture mounting structure, comprising:
a base mountable securely to a support;
a cover attachable to the base;
a magnetic device to mount support the cover to from the base to hold the cover and base together; and
a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, and the base further includes an electrical connection with respect to the cover.

14. (Original) The fixture mounting structure of claim 13, wherein the electrical connection provides for a signal coupling between the cover and the base.

15. (Original) The fixture mounting structure of claim 13, wherein the cover further comprises a means to couple electrical power from the base to the cover.

16. (Previously Presented) A fixture mounting structure, comprising:
a base mountable securely to a support;
a cover attachable to the base;
a magnetic device to hold the cover and base together; and
a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, and the base further includes an electrical connection with respect to the cover,
wherein the cover further comprises a means to couple electrical power from the base to the cover, and
wherein the means for coupling the electrical power from the base to the cover comprises a fixed terminal and a conductive ring.

17. (Original) The fixture mounting structure of claim 16, further comprising a light fixture.

18. (Original) The fixture mounting structure of claim 16, further comprising a smoke detector.

19. (Currently Amended) A fixture mounting structure, comprising:
a base mountable securely to a support;
a cover attachable to the base;
a magnetic device to mount support the cover to from the base to hold the cover and base together; and

Serial No.: 10/007,509

a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, further comprising a tool positionable with respect to the mechanical retainer to operate the mechanical retainer to uncouple the base from the cover.

20. (Original) The fixture mounting structure of claim 19, further comprising an elongated member to apply force to uncouple the magnetic device.

21. (Original) The fixture mounting structure of claim 20, wherein the elongated member is a pole.

22 - 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A fixture mounting structure, comprising:
a base mountable securely to a support;
a cover attachable to the base;
a magnetic device to mount support the cover to from the base to hold the cover and base together; and

a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, wherein the base further comprises a receiving slot, and a reinforcing plate which includes a means to accept a latching device and the selectively operable mechanical retainer is a latch.

28-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) A mounting system, comprising:
a base attachable to a support;
a mounting member selectively attachable to the base and removable from the base;
a multi-retention mechanism to hold the base and the mounting member together, including

Serial No.: 10/007,509

at least one mechanical attachment that is selectively operable to release and hold and operates using a positive lock, and

a second attachment that is selectively operable to release and hold and operates responsive to a positional relationship, wherein the second attachment includes a magnet and magnetically responsive plate that are cooperative to mount support the mounting member to from the base.

69-70. (Canceled)

71. (Currently Amended) The mounting system of claim 68 70, wherein the device is a smoke detector is attached to the mounting member.

72. (Original) The mounting system of claim 71, wherein the smoke detector is battery powered.

73. (Original) The mounting system of claim 71, wherein the smoke detector is externally powered.

74. (Currently Amended) The mounting system of claim 68 70, wherein the device is a light fixture is attached to the mounting member.

75. (Original) The mounting system of claim 74, wherein the light fixture is battery powered.

76. (Original) The mounting system of claim 74, wherein the light fixture is externally powered.

77-84. (Canceled)

85. (Currently Amended) A method of removing a suspended subassembly that is releasably coupled to a relatively remote secured subassembly by a dual

Serial No.: 10/007,509

retention mechanism that includes a first holding mechanism, which includes a mechanical retainer to provide retention of the suspended subassembly from the secured subassembly, and a second holding mechanism, which operates based on a positional relationship to support the suspended subassembly from the secured subassembly, comprising the steps of:

coupling a tool to the suspended subassembly to release the a first holding mechanism;

applying a force to the tool to release the a second holding mechanism that supports mounts the suspended subassembly to from the secured subassembly; and withdrawing the suspended subassembly.

86. (Currently Amended) A method of releasably coupling a suspended subassembly to a relatively remote secured subassembly by a dual retention mechanism that includes a first holding mechanism, which includes a mechanical retainer to provide retention of the suspended subassembly from the secured subassembly, and a second holding mechanism, which operates based on a positional relationship to support the suspended subassembly from the secured subassembly, comprising the steps of:

coupling a tool to the suspended subassembly to release the a first holding mechanism from a retention condition;

using the tool to register the suspended subassembly to the secured subassembly, thereby engaging the a second holding mechanism that supports mounts the suspended subassembly from to the secured subassembly; and

uncoupling the tool from the suspended subassembly, thereby engaging the first holding mechanism to a retention condition to retain the suspended subassembly from the secured subassembly.

87-91. (Canceled)

92. (New) A method of decoupling with respect to a support, wherein

Serial No.: 10/007,509

a fixture mounting structure includes a base mounted to a support, and a cover that is attachable to the base, a magnetic device to support the cover from the base to hold the cover and base together; and a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, comprising

positioning a tool with respect to the mechanical retainer to operate the the mechanical retainer to release retention of the cover to the base by the selectively operable mechanical retainer while the magnetic device supports the cover from the base.

93. (New) The method of claim 94, further comprising manipulating the tool to remove the cover from the base.

94. (New) A method of mounting with respect to a support, wherein a fixture mounting structure includes a base mounted to such support, a cover attachable to the base, a magnetic device to support the cover from the base to hold the cover and base together; and a selectively operable mechanical retainer to provide retention of the cover to the base, comprising

positioning a tool with respect to the cover to operate the mechanical retainer to a deactivated condition,

using the tool placing the cover with respect to the base in relation for the magnetic device to support the cover from the base, and

while the magnetic device supports the cover from the base, removing the tool from the cover to permit the mechanical retainer to effect retention of the cover to the base.